



U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Tuesday, October 31, 2006	Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767

“INTEGRITY OF NOVEMBER 7, 2006 ELECTIONS”

Spokane – Today, James A. McDevitt, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that Gregory Shogren, George Jacobs and Rolf Tangvald, Assistant United States Attorneys, will lead the efforts of their Office in connection with the Justice Department’s nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming November 7, 2006 general elections. AUSA’s Shogren, Jacobs and Tangvald have been appointed to serve as the District Election Officers for the Eastern District of Washington, and in that capacity are responsible for overseeing the District’s handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters.

On October 8, 2002, then United States Attorney General John Ashcroft established a Department-wide Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative. The goals of this Initiative are to increase the Department’s ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur. The goal is to make voting easier and cheating harder. Both goals are equally important. It is imperative that in pursuing voter integrity, ballot access is not in any way diminished or harmed. The Department’s long-standing Election Day Program furthers the goals of the Initiative. The Program also is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day. Voting is the cornerstone of our American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to vote have that opportunity, while those who seek to corrupt the process are brought to justice.

In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses on November 7, 2006, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, United States Attorney McDevitt stated that Assistant United States Attorneys Gregory Shogren, George Jacobs and Rolf Tangvald will be on duty in this District while the polls are open. AUSA Shogren can be reached in Yakima at 509-454-4425. AUSAs Jacobs and Tangvald can be reached in Spokane at 509-353-2767.

Frank M. Harrill, Supervisory Senior Resident Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has announced that the FBI will also have Special Agents available in this District to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses. The Yakima office of the FBI can be reached by the public at 509-453-4859 and the Spokane office of the FBI can be reached at 509-747-5195.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington, D.C. at 1-800-253-3931 or 202-307-2767.

United States Attorney James McDevitt said, "This District will aggressively pursue electoral corruption and voting rights abuses. Such abuses undermine the representative form of government that each citizen celebrates. As crimes against both the individual and the United States, they will be dealt with promptly and aggressively. Anyone who has information suggesting electoral corruption or voting rights abuses should make that information available immediately to my Office, the FBI, or the Civil Rights Division."